

Message Text

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47

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 HEW-06 SP-02 MMS-04 PER-03 ABF-01

SS-15 /041 W

----- 005292

R 031218Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5481

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 0748

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED

SUBJ: SSA: PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF CLAIMS-TAKING OPERATIONS IN
ISRAEL

FOR SCS AND NEA/EX

DEPT'S A-5906 OF JULY 25, 1974

LUCIANO D'ANGELO, FEDERAL BENEFITS SUPERVISOR, ATHENS, VISITED
TEL AVIV JANUARY 20-22 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY INTRODUCING CLAIMS-
TAKING OPERATION AT THIS POST. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS SERVICE
WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE VIEW REMARKABLE GROWTH NUMBER FEDERAL
BENEFICIARIES RESIDING HERE. NEARLY 6,000 PERSONS IN ISRAEL
ARE NOW RECEIVING SSA BENEFIT CHECKS AND THE RATE OF GROWTH OVER
THE PAST TWELVE YEARS (OVER 400PERCENT) IS THE HIGHEST RECORDED IN
ANY COUNTRY EXCEPT MEXICO. THREE QUARTERS OF THESE BENEFICIARIES
RESIDE IN THE TEL AVIV CONSULAR DISTRICT AND ALL CHECKS ADDRESSED
TO ISRAEL ARE INITIALLY PROCESSED THROUGH THIS EMBASSY.

2. INTRODUCTION CLAIMS-TAKING SERVICE WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE THE
PRESENT FEDERAL BENEFICIARIES WORKLOAD OF OUR LOCAL STAFF (SSA WORK
NOW REQUIRES APPROXIMATELY 50PERCENT OF THE TIME OF TWO LOCALS).
D'ANGELO, AFTER CAREFULLY SURVEYING OUR STAFF SITUATION, CONCLUDES
THAT ONE ADDITIONAL LOCAL POSITION IS NEEDED AND AGREES WITH
THE EMBASSY THAT THIS SERVICE COULD NOT RPT NOT BE UNDERTAKEN UNTIL
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THIS ADDITIONAL POSITION IS AUTHORIZED AND FILLED.

3. UNDERSTAND D'ANGELO HAS RECOMMENDED THROUGH HIS CHANNELS THAT NEW POSITION BE FUNDED BY SSA. REQUEST DEPARTMENT COORDINATE WITH SSA IN THIS REGARD AND ADVISE SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER NEW POSITION CAN BE AUTHORIZED. VIEW COMPLEXITY OF WORK INVOLVED WE RECOMMEND FSL-3 LEVEL FOR THIS POSITION.

4. WITH RESPECT TO TIMING, EMBASSY HOPES PROGRAM MAY BE ESTABLISHED AND NECESSARY TRAINING ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR TO END OF APRIL. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, INTRODUCTION CLAIMS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT OFF UNTIL AFTER PEAK SUMMER SEASON, I.E., UNTIL SEPTEMBER AT EARLIEST.
VELIOTES

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